



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish;
From 'Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest'

BOISDUVALIA DENSIFLORA **DENSE SPIKE-PRIMROSE**

Dense Spike-primrose is an annual with simple or branched stems that are 5-30 cm tall. The sessile lower leaves are narrowly lance-shaped and 15-30 mm long with entire or sparsely-toothed margins, while the upper leaves are shorter and broader. Foliage is covered with soft, white, short or long hairs and may also be glandular. Flowers are borne in the axils of the upper leaves in dense spike-like inflorescences at the branch tips. Each flower has 4 pink to purple, 2-lobed petals, 2-8 mm long, and a 4-lobed calyx borne on top of the seed-bearing ovary. The 4-celled ovaries develop into straight, club-shaped capsules, 6-10 mm long, with 12-24 naked seeds. Flowering in July or August.

BOISDUVALIA GLABELLA, the other member of this genus in our area, has petals 1.5-4 mm long and capsules that are slightly curved with 24-56 seeds. Species of *GAYOPHYTUM* have 2-celled ovaries, *EPILOBIUM* have seeds with tufts of hair at the tips, and *CLARKIA* have stalked flowers.